

Message Text

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73-61

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01 IO-03 RSR-01 EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4279

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1641

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS HO ES

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/ SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: (A) STATE 60875; (B) SAN SALVADOR 1535

1. SUMMARY: GOH HAS RECEIVED UNOFFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF GOES COMMUNICATION TO COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WHICH, AS HONDURANS UNDERSTAND IT, REPUDIATES RESULTS OF ANTIGUA MEETINGS. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THIS SETS EVERYTHING BACK TO SQUARE ONE. ACTION REQUESTED: USOAS REQUESTED PROVIDE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, SPEAKING " IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE", GOH HAS LEARNED THROUGH INFORMAL BUT RELIABLE CHANNEL THAT GOES HAS SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE OF SEVEN DOCUMENT WHICH, IN EFFECT, DENIED THAT ANY FIRM POINTS WERE AGREED UPON DURING SERIES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS IN ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA. ACCORDING TO SCENARIO GIVEN BY MINISTRY SOURCE, DURING APRIL 2 MEETING WITH COMMITTEE SALVADORAN FONMIN BORGONOVO AND REST OF GOES DELEGATION TO OASGA TOOK NO ISSUE WITH
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HONDURAN ORAL AND WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF GUATEMALA MEETINGS AS SUCH, ALTHOUGH IN ORAL PRESENTATION BORGONOVO STRESSED THAT REMAINING LAP OF ROAD TOWARDS SETTLEMENT WOULD NECESSARILY BE A LONG ONE. ON APRIL 30, HOWEVER, HONDURAN FONMINISTRY RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION THAT, FOLLOWING CLOSE OF OASGA AND DEPARTURE OF MINISTERS FROM WASHINGTON, GOES PERMREP PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE A RESPONSE TO HONDURAN PAPER; THIS DOCUMENT, DATED APRIL 13 BUT NOT SUBMITTED UNTIL APRIL 16, IN EFFECT REJECTED HONDURAN DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS MADE IN GUATEMALA SAYING GOH " HAD DRAWN UNILATERAL CONCLUSIONS" FROM ANTIGUA TALKS.

3. SOURCE WAS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY DISTURBED BY THIS INFORMATION SAYING IT APPARENTLY MEANT EL SALVADOR HAD WRITTEN OFF WHOLE PROCESS OF ANTIGUA MEETINGS, PUTTING EVERYTHING BACK WHERE IT STARTED; IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAD BEEN NO COMMON AGREEMENT AS TO DISPUTED AND NON-DISPUTED AREAS OF BORDER, THERE WAS LITTLE POINT IN SETTING UP ON-SITE INSPECTION COMMISSIONS. HE PROFESSED TO BE COMPLETELY BAFFLED BY GOES MOTIVES FIRST IN REPUDIATING SUCH AREAS OF AGREEMENT AS HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT IN ANTIGUA AND SECOND IN DOING SO IN RATHER COVERT MANNER, RATHER THAN OPENLY STATING POSITION WHILE BOTH FONMINS WERE MEETING WITH COMMITTEE OR AT LEAST WHILE THEY WERE STILL IN WASHINGTON. MINISTRY WAS ALSO AT A LOSS TO RECONCILE GOES PRESENTATION OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON RETURN FROM OASGA (SUBSTANCE REFTEL B HAD BEEN PASSED TO FONMINISTER AND FULLER ACCOUNT LATER APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS). GOH THUS FORCED TO GIVE SERIOUS REAPPRAISAL TO WHOLE SITUATION.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: SOURCE REPEATEDLY STRESSED CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION AND WAS APPARENTLY PASSING IT ON TO EMBASSY SOMEWHAT IMPULSIVELY AND WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF MINISTER; HE EXPLAINED THAT (AS OF NIGHT OF APRIL 30) IT MAY NOT YET HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR MINISTER TO INFORM CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ. ADDRESSEES THEREFORE REQUESTED NOT TO REVEAL TO HONDURAN MISSION OR THIRD PARTIES CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE. USOAS, HOWEVER, IS REQUESTED TO SEND FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION IT MAY HAVE AS TO WHETHER GOES PAPER WAS IN FACT SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE AND WHETHER SUBSTANCE IS AS HONDURANS HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE. EMBASSY ALSO WONDERS WHETHER SUCH COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEE ARE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL OR BECOME PART OF THE RECORD WITH COPIES MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. IF HONDURAN ACCOUNT OF PAPER IS OVERDRAWN AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURES CALL FOR

EVENTUAL DISTRIBUTION, IT CERTAINLY MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF
THIS COULD BE DONE IN NORMAL MANNER BUT WITHOUT DELAY,
PROVIDING GOH WITH TEXT IT COULD STUDY AND HOPEFULLY PUT
IN PERSPECTIVE.
RYAN

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